Noise pollution

@*342. SHRl K. VASUDEVA PANI-KER: Will the Minister of HEALTH VND FAMILY WELFARE b_e pleased to aie:

I whether jt is a fact that nearly 44 tillion people >'$_n$ India are suffering from lafness of varying degrees and that their jmber is likely to go up if timely steps fe not taken to check noise pollution *$* the country; and

<0») if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINTSTER rN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE HRT S. KRTSHNA KUMAR): (a) and (a) No country-wide data is available to indicate the exact extent of hearing im-ptaimient. A multi-centric sample study clone (1977—1980) by the Indian Conn-ell of Medical Research (ICMR) indicated that the prevalence of hearing impair-ment in the areas and samples studied were 10.7 per cent in tural population ' and 6.8 per cent in urban population. The studies done by ICMR further revealed flaat in urban areas there was a definite fascrease in the prevalence of hearing irn-tjMKrment in thos© persons working in noisy environments for more than 10 years.

"Hte 'Department of Environment have fcent.lv set up a Committee to look ir £ present status of noicr pollution in ts country and to suggest the possible medial measures. In the meanwhile, the tuian Standards Institution ha$_s$ already trmulated certain standards for abate-ent of noises in town planning, industrial -ctivities and building construction.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: ^ir, has the Government conducted a y of residential areas in Delhi and j ker metropolitan cities in India which ve the maximum noise pollution, espe- the during the night time? If so the veas iri Delhi which have such noise pollution and the cause of this polhittoh?

«HRl S. 'KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, a *Sdt* survey has been conducted under the

SPreviously Starred Question 162 tr^ns-arrea from (he Sth March, 1986.

auspice$_s$ of the Post-Graduate Institute, Madras, N.P.A. Delhi and an organisation called Soclean, a Bombay-based voluntary organisation. I will not be able to give the exact areas in the metropolitan cities covered by the study. But the stndy has established that in certain areas of the cities, especially during the peak-hour traflic time, the noise level is more than the reasonable level of 85 decibel (A). Also there are other studies whish have established on nepies between prolonged exposure to such noise and hearing im-pairment.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Does the Government propose to take any steps such as enforcing soeed limits of vehicles during the nights and also to increase the silence zones in the cnies? If not, what other stens has the Government taken to check this threat?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir. the control of noise pollution is attempted to be enforced by the Centre and the State Governments throueh eight steps or methods: Augmentation of civic regulations; promotion of civic conscisusness; strict enforcement of the Motor Vehicles Act relating to the use of car horns; selection of silent zones; controlling inliocrimi-nate use of loud-speakers; restriction of noisv trades; restriction of traffic in reri-dential localities; enforcement of ISI standards. As it stands now, there is no comprehensive insolation OT comprehensive strategy for action to control nore pollution. But the nodal Ministry the Department of Environment has set up a committee on Noise Pollution and the terms of reference of the Committee include studying the present status of the various legis-lations and their effective imolcmentation. And as soon as the recommendations of this Committee are received, we have been told bv the Department of Environment, fin inteeroted packae$_e$ of measures will be initiated by the Governrnent for the comrol of noise pollution.

SHRl PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, according t_0 n snrve/ conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, we are told that the noi,w level of certain busy traffic roads in Delhi is 95 decibels, and there is a riicrh incident

noise-induced hearing loss and other impairments, for instance, acoustic trauma and like tinnitus which means ringing in ears. And I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps aie being taken for helping the industrial workers. In the Workmen's (Compensation) Act, there is a provision for some compensation only in case of total deafness, whereas for certain other impairment or h.«s of a limb or any part there of the body there is a provision for compwv.t on. And I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is under the con?<deration of the Government to provide for compensation for varying degrees of deafness also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tt must be answered by the Labour Minister. Now. Mr. Gopalsamy.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: First part he can answer. Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Please answer the first part.

SHRl S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir. the hon. Member is correct to the extent that some of the studies indicate that some areas in Delhi like Darva Gani and Karol Bash have special high level of noise pollution.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Cb-iinnan, Sir, a survey conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has revealed that the average noise level of the country's metropolitan cities ia more than twice the prescribed international limit. Also a recent study in five Southern ci'ies by Prof. Kamaswaran of the Post-Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences shews that a large $_n$umber of industrial workers are suffering from noise induced hearing loss. One out of every four workers working in the automobile and oil mi'l and other industries in Madras, Coimbatore and Madurai suffer from this particular NI disease. Whereas in Britain, Sir, they are getting (compensation—in the year 1970 alone, one lakh workers had got compensation >n Britain—but it is not so in India, May I know from the Minister what steps he is going to take to protect *tht* welfare of the workers. pirticsilarlr the workers working in these industries? Would he also consider banning this air-horn fitted in trucks, lorries aal ouses which is producing the noise, damaging the eardrum particularly becauss .jf the air-horn? Will you consider the suggestion to ba$_n$ this?

MR ^H * TR MAN: ^{M}r. Miniser give a brief answer.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR- Sir, the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, had conducted some studios in relation to noise pollution in factories and hav$_e$ made several recommend'-tions. Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1976 included noise-induced hearing loss as a notificable disease entitled *to* compensation.

SHRI J. K. MIN: Sir, what about the noise pollution in the House? Members are worried about the noise pollution outside *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will *bf* controlled by the Chairman.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Mr. cairman Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that the worst kind of noise poll'ition lakes place in our countiy at the tims of elections when hundreds of loud-speakers arc used simultaneously in the city. And some elections are always taking place somewhere in the country like municipal elections, or corporation elections or Assembly elections or by-elections. So, I would like to know if the Government is considering any measures to prevent and regulate this kind of noise pollution also.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, almost all the States in the country hav* several pieces of legislation like. The Police Act. The Control of Noises Act, Controlling the loud-speakers etc., which are sufficient to regulate this type of noise from the loud-speakers.

श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, स्पीच ग्रौर हियरिंग डिफेक्ट के लिए मैसूर सरकार ने एक इंस्टीट्यूट चलाया है । ग्राई०एस०सी करने के बाद

पांच साल की ट्रेनिंग होती है । हर साल वहां से बीस पैथालोजिस्ट और ग्राडियोलोजिस्ट निकल रहे हैं, लेकिन उनके लिए कोई पोस्ट क्रिएट करने की व्यवस्था नहीं हो रही है ।

क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई ऐसा नियम बनायेंगे और राज्य सरकारों को भी विवश करेंगे कि जहां कहीं मेडिकल कालेज हैं, उसमें स्पीच एण्ड हियरिंग के पैथालोजिस्ट और ग्राडियोलोजिस्ट के लिए पोस्ट मस्ट है, तब वह रेकोग्नाईज होगा ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any proposal like that?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, it is a general question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you want notice for that.

श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, यह इसी से संबंधित है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I only translated into Parliamentary language. He Wants notice. He has not got the information. You give notice. Yes. Mr. Thangabalu.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, I shall certainly look into the complaints of the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will look into it.

SHRI THANGABALU: Sir what steps have been taken to identify factories which are producing loud noise in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu. Secondly, what preventive steps the Government contemplates to take periodically like medical check-up of the industrial workers? May I know the replies 1" these two questions from the hon. Minister?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir. the Indian Standards Institution have laid down clear guidelines for factories in relation to noise levels. As regards the second part of the question, it is a part of the ESI scheme.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मान्यवर, पर्यावरण विभाग ने एक समिति गठित की है । तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि वह समिति कब गठित की गई और इसके सदस्य कौन-कौन है और इस समिति को अपनी अंतिम रिपोर्ट देने के लिए कब तक कहा गया है ?

SHRI J. K. JAIN: Sir. *Pariyava-ran* does not come undei' this.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Committee consists of nine members. Dr. A. K. Ganguly is the Chairman.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : यह रिपोर्ट कब तक आयेगी ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When will the report be ready, have you any idea?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: It is not indicated. It is dealt with by the Department of Environment. We do not have further the details.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We nave had enough noise on this question We wijl-noiv move to the next question. Ouestion No. 343.

'Testing and Quality Control Facilities for Drags Manufactured by Private Companies

t*343. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE he pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tha; a num ber of drugs manufacturers do not have testing and quality control faci lities with them:

(b) what is the number of drug .numifacturing companies which do not possess such facilities;

(c) whether Government have testing laboratories where the drugs can be tested before they are formulated by such companies;

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Monika Das.